

**NDT Members:**

EPA

Army Corps of Engineers

Maritime Administration

Fish and Wildlife Service

US Coast Guard

NOAA

**NDT participating agencies:**

US Navy

US Geological Survey

US Department of Agriculture



**NATIONAL DREDGING TEAM**

[www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/ndt](http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/ndt)

March 27, 2006

Dear Members of the Dredged Material, Sediment, and Watershed Management Communities:

It is our pleasure to invite you to *Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together*, to be held August 29-31, 2006, at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The conference is co-sponsored by the National Dredging Team (NDT), a federal interagency group under the umbrella of the Committee for the Marine Transportation System, and by the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR). SIMOR is one of the interagency groups formed as part of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan to improve coordination among federal agencies and also work closely with state, local, and tribal governments.

This conference is, in part, a response to the NDT's 2003 Action Agenda recommendation that the NDT, Regional Dredging Teams (RDTs) and Local Planning/Project Groups ensure that sediment management is accomplished in the context of watershed management, and that watershed management plans incorporate both private and federal dredging. This conference is also in SIMOR's workplan addressing U.S. Ocean Action Plan priorities. In addition to the main conference, SIMOR will host a workshop on the afternoon of August 31<sup>st</sup> to provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to learn about, and provide feedback on, implementation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

Dredged material and sediment management planning often occur outside the context of watershed management plans, and watershed management plans often do not address dredged material management or sediment system considerations. This practice misses potential opportunities to improve navigation, flood and storm damage reduction efforts, and environmental quality in water resource projects; it may also overlook the notion of sediment as a resource. The objectives of this conference are to identify steps needed to include dredged material and sediment management in watershed plans, and to include a broader watershed perspective in dredged material management planning.

By bringing together dredged material and watershed stakeholders, the NDT and SIMOR hope to identify (1) the current responsibilities and interests in dredged material management in the watershed, (2) areas of technical and planning intersection, and (3) gaps in knowledge or management of sediment in the watershed. A successful conference will improve the understanding of beneficial use and disposal alternatives for dredged material, as well as lay the groundwork for continued coordination among dredged material managers and watershed stakeholders at the regional and local levels in developing and implementing regional sediment management strategies. Additional topics will include the Corps of Engineers' initiative on Regional Sediment Management, erosion control, habitat restoration, reduction at source, and coastal management issues.

We will send more details via email in about a month regarding registration details. Please direct questions on the conference to Molly Madden ([madden.molly@epa.gov](mailto:madden.molly@epa.gov)). On behalf of the NDT and SIMOR, we look forward to seeing you in August!

Best regards,

Craig Vogt, EPA Co-Chair  
National Dredging Team

Best regards,

Barry Holliday, Corps of Engineers Co-Chair  
National Dredging Team

U.S. Ocean Action Plan  
Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR)  
<http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/simor.html>

**SIMOR Members:**

Council for Environmental Quality

NOAA

EPA

Department of Interior

Department of Agriculture

Department of Defense

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Energy

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Justice

Department of Labor

Department of State

Department of Transportation

NASA

NSF

Executive Office of the President

Office of Management and Budget

Office of Science and Technology